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MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Costa Rica* and Colombia**: draft resolution

International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/95 and 50/98, both of 20 December 1995, as well as other relevant international agreements concerning trade, development and interrelated issues,

Emphasizing the importance of an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system,

Emphasizing also that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the economic growth of the world economy, including the creation of employment, in particular for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the developing countries, and emphasizing further that each country is responsible for its own economic policies for development,

Noting with satisfaction the highly successful outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Midrand, South Africa, from 27 April to 11 May 1996, and the spirit of genuine partnership and solidarity that emerged therefrom,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Expressing its deep gratitude to the Government and the people of South Africa for the hospitality extended to the participants in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session,

Welcoming with appreciation the generous offer made by the Government and the people of Thailand to host the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the year 2000,

Expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Singapore for hosting the inaugural Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization,

I

1. Endorses the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which was held in Midrand, South Africa, in April and May 1996, in particular the commitment on "A Partnership for Growth and Development", 1/ and expresses its political will and responsibility with respect to implementing the agreed commitments;

2. Takes note of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-third session; 2/

3. Recognizes that "A Partnership for Growth and Development" builds upon the various agreements and conferences that provide an overall policy framework for sustained economic growth and sustainable development to address the challenges of the 1990s, including the Cartagena Commitment; 3/

4. Welcomes the fact that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as part of the United Nations system and a contributor to its revitalization, has adopted far-reaching reforms, as embodied in the "Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development", 4/ adopted by consensus at the ninth session of the Conference, which encompass its programme of work, its intergovernmental machinery and its secretariat, as well as the strengthening of its cooperation with other institutions, especially its complementarity with the World Trade Organization and its cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and relevant regional organizations, thus adapting itself to new economic and institutional modalities created by the process of globalization, the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of

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1/ See A/51/308.

2/ A/51/15 (vol. II).

3/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth Session, Report and Annexes (TD/364/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect. A.

4/ A/51/308.

multilateral trade negotiations agreements 5/ and the creation of the World Trade Organization;

5. Also welcomes the importance attached by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session to building a lasting partnership for development between non-governmental actors and the Conference and the initiative taken by the Secretary-General of the Conference to hold meetings with relevant actors to further elaborate concrete steps towards this end;

6. Recognizes the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development;

7. Also recognizes that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, having a comparative advantage in tackling trade-related development issues, should continue to facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, including by following developments in the international trading system, in particular their implications for developing countries, and identifying new opportunities and challenges arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements;

8. Decides, within this context, to enable the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to implement its programme of work with a focus on the issues of globalization and development, international trade in goods and services and commodity matters, investment, enterprise development and technology, services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency;

9. Invites the President of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session to consider convening a special high-level review meeting two years prior to the tenth session of the Conference;

II

1. Stresses the urgent need to continue trade liberalization, including liberalization through a substantial reduction of tariff and other barriers to trade, in particular non-tariff barriers, and the elimination of discriminatory and protectionist practices in international trade relations, and to improve access to the markets of all countries, in particular those of the developed countries, so as to generate sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

2. Recognizes that the World Trade Organization provides the framework for an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system and stresses that all members of the World Trade Organization should implement their commitments in respect of the Uruguay Round agreements in a full, timely, faithful and continuous manner and

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5/ Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

that all provisions of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations 6/ should be effectively applied, so as to maximize economic growth and the developmental benefits thereof for all, taking into account specific difficulties and interests of developing countries;

3. Urges Governments and concerned organizations to implement fully and expeditiously the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures in Favour of the Least Developed Countries, as well as to effectively apply the Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Countries, as well as the recommendations adopted at the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and at the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as they relate to trade and trade-related issues of the least developed countries;

4. Emphasizes the importance of the strengthening of, and the attaining of greater universality by, the international trading system and welcomes the process directed towards accession to the World Trade Organization of countries that are not members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and emphasizes the necessity for providing assistance to non-World Trade Organization members so as to facilitate their efforts with respect to accession in an expeditious manner, and thereby contribute to their rapid and full integration into the multilateral trading system;

5. Also emphasizes the importance of the inaugural Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Singapore, in regard to reviewing the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements and its built-in agenda with a view to helping set the future direction of a rule-based multilateral trading system;

6. Further emphasizes that the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization is a key element as regards the integrity and credibility of the multilateral trading system and the full realization of the benefits anticipated from the conclusion of the Uruguay Round;

7. Deplores any attempt to bypass or undermine multilaterally agreed procedures on the conduct of international trading, by resorting to unilateral actions, or to use environmental and social concerns for protectionist purposes;

8. Underscores that the pursuit of the built-in agenda contained in various Uruguay Round agreements, as well as the international community's handling of issues affecting the conduct of international trade relations, should be carried out in a balanced manner, which takes into account the concerns of developing countries;

9. Emphasizes the need for a balanced and integrated approach to environment, trade and development issues, through the examining of trade and environmental issues from a developmental perspective which should be mutually supportive, while stressing that environmental policies and measures with a

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6/ Ibid., vol. I.

potential trade impact should not be used for protectionist purposes and that positive measures such as improved market access, capacity-building, improved access to finance and access to transfer of technology are effective instruments in regard to achieving the objective of sustainable development and in meeting the multilaterally agreed objectives of multilateral environmental agreements;

III

1. Recognizes the important progress made in understanding the relationship between trade and environment in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization, as well as in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and in the Commission on Sustainable Development, including the recommendations made at its fourth session, and the need to maintain the momentum generated through these deliberations, and requests the Conference, within this context, to examine outstanding issues with a view to recommending future work on trade and environment;

2. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to perform its special role in the field of trade and environment, as reaffirmed at the ninth session of the Conference, in particular within the context of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 7/ and its preparatory process, and stresses the need for the Conference to continue to promote cooperation among the many international organizations and bodies interfacing in the trade and environment debate, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the World Trade Organization;

3. Also requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to identify and analyse the implications for development of issues relevant to a possible multilateral framework on investment, taking into account the interests of developing countries;

4. Reaffirms the need to implement as a matter of priority the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 8/ taking into account the assessment and recommendations adopted at the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, especially those related to trade and development;

5. Also reaffirms the need to give priority to the problems facing the least developed countries and, in particular, special attention to help enable the least developed countries to maximize their potential opportunities and minimize possible risks arising from the Uruguay Round agreements;

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

8/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

6. Stresses the need to give special attention, within the context of international cooperation on trade and development issues, to the implementation of the many international development commitments geared to meeting the special development needs and problems of small island developing States and of landlocked developing States, as well as to recognize that the transit developing countries that provide transit services to landlocked developing countries need adequate assistance in order to maintain and improve their transit infrastructure;

7. Strongly invites preference-giving countries to continue to improve and renew their Generalized System of Preferences schemes in keeping with the post-Uruguay Round trading system and with the objective of integrating developing countries, especially least developed countries, into the international trading system, while avoiding linking eligibility to non-trade considerations and thereby detracting from the original principles of Generalized System of Preferences schemes;

8. Stresses that Governments, as well as international organizations, should extend technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in the international trading system, including assistance in their service sectors to help ensure that they reap the maximum possible benefits from the liberalization of trade in services;

9. Also stresses that the forthcoming South-South conference on finance, trade and investment, to be held in San José, Costa Rica, will provide an opportunity for developing countries to advance initiatives related to "A Partnership for Growth and Development", and invites the international community to provide support to the conference.